children were given a free day-entry inside Wonderland, a theme park located in Gulshan. Starting with a delicious breakfast, the kids were let loose inside the theme park. They were seen trying out all the rides until lunch. The children were also entertained with live music on location. "We had done something similar last year as well," says Korvi Rakshand, the Founder Chairperson of Jaago Foundation. "This year, we had an overwhelming response with at least 2,000 young volunteers ready to help us out on the streets. It was amazing! It shows how much people love Jaago."

The money that the volunteers will be earning on the streets selling flowers will be distributed in two ways. A portion of it will be given to the street kids trying to survive on the streets, and the rest of the portion will be donated to the Jaago Foundation Education Fund for the school. "We are opening up two more branches in the city and the money will be used towards the development of the schools there." Currently, there is just one branch of the foundation, which is operating in Rayerbazaar.

Another organisation working towards the development of children in the country is the 1 degree initiative, an organisation run by community activist, Sabhanaz Rashid Diya. A student and photographer by profession, Diya had started this organisation in the hopes of bringing about a difference in the lives of the kids surviving on the streets. "Around 250 volunteers from 1 degree initiative had joined the volunteers from Jaago last week, selling flowers on the streets," says Diya. "A portion of it will go straight to the education fund run by Jaago Foundation."

Not only is this day a special day for the children, it is also a very special day for the parents. Ruksana Sultana Nijhu works in the customer services department of a private company. She plans to take her only son and her brother's daughter out to the nearby park in the evening and then go for ice-cream. "We never get to spend much time with the children," says Nijhu. "My mother takes care of both the children while we are at work. Sometimes even during weekends, we work or have other social engagements. Children's Day would be a good day for us to spend some quality time as well as, take our children out to the park for some fresh air, which we seldom get to do."

Mohammad Nurul Amin is a peon working in a private company. He brings tea for the employees working in the cubicles, throws away the waste papers and also gets everyone to sign the monthly registers. He, however, has no idea about the Universal Children's Day. "I try to provide for my children as much as possible," says Amin. "My son is in class 3 and my daughter is in class 6. I want them to do well in school so that they can get a decent degree and become respectable citizens of the country."



Volunteers from Jaago Foundation selling flowers on the streets